



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D C 20250

FEB 7 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This is in response to your letters of January 24, 2007, requesting disaster designations for Amador and Calaveras Counties, California, due to extremely low temperatures and drought that occurred during the period January 1, 2007, and continuing

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Damage Assessment Reports, along with additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, USDA has determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating Amador and Calaveras Counties as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Alpine El Dorado Sacramento San Joaquin Stanislaus Tuolumne

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns", written in a cursive style.

Mike Johanns
Secretary